

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A unit for providing messages emanating from a remote station to a user, comprising a transponder section for communicating with the remote station by a wireless mode of communication, and a data processing section, wherein the transponder section includes means for storing an identification code, means that are responsive to an interrogation signal from the remote station to emit an identification signal bearing the identification code, means that are responsive to incoming data signals including an address code, which may be the same as or derived from the identification code, and means for providing the incoming data to the data processing section, and wherein the data processing section includes means for providing an audio and/or visual output for the user of the unit, further characterized in that the unit further comprises means responsive to the audio output to generate a modulated signal for emitting externally of the unit.

2. (previously presented) The unit of claim 1, wherein the unit is contained within a housing including one or more batteries for powering the transponder section and the data processing section.

3. (previously presented) A unit for providing messages emanating from a remote station to a user, comprising a transponder section for communicating with the remote station by a wireless mode of communication, and a data processing section, wherein the transponder section includes means for storing an identification code, means that are responsive to an interrogation signal from the remote station to emit an identification signal bearing the identification code, means that are responsive to incoming data signals including an address code, which may be the same as or derived from the identification code, and means for providing the incoming data to the data processing section, and wherein the data processing section includes means for providing an audio and visual output for the user of the unit, further characterized in that the unit is contained within a housing including one or more batteries for powering the transponder section and the data processing section.

4. (previously presented) The unit of claim 3, wherein the unit further comprises means responsive to the audio output to generate a modulated signal for emitting externally of the unit.
5. (previously presented) The unit of claim 3, wherein the means for providing an audio and/or visual output at least includes means for providing an aural output.
6. (currently amended) The unit of claim 3, wherein the unit further comprises means for receiving an input from a user and to initiate a signal from the transponder section for communicating the user input to the remote station.
7. (previously presented) The unit of claim 6 further comprising a keypad or keyboard for generating the user input.
8. (previously presented) The unit of claim 3 further comprising means for linking the unit to an external device, which external device is operable by the user to generate inputs to the unit.